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15 MAY 1972

MEMORANDUM FOR MEMBERS OF IRAC**SUBJECT: Issue Studies**

1. In my memorandum of 15 March 1972, a number of suggested areas for special study were provided and your comments requested. At that time the Working Group was established and instructed to consider the suggested issues along with any others IRAC principals wished to submit.

2. The Chairman of the Working Group has sent me a progress report which is provided in Attachment 1. You will note that several important studies are under way within the community, while other suggested areas are being further explored by the Working Group. I believe it will be essential that the results of these studies be available by mid-August. They will be a key input in developing the Fiscal Year 1974 National Intelligence Program Memorandum, which I will be submitting to the President later in the year, and also be helpful if adjustments are made in our Fiscal Year 1973 requests now before the Congress.

3. The Working Group has recommended two additional studies to be undertaken during this same time period:

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4. I do not believe a formal session of IRAC is necessary to consider these matters. The Chairman of the Working Group will be instructed to proceed with the two new studies described in paragraph 3 above and actively to monitor the progress of these studies already under way in various parts of the community. He will also be instructed to continue further examination of the issues shown in paragraph 4d of the attached progress report and to complete an overall inventory of all resource studies being sponsored in the various intelligence agencies in support of their Fiscal Year 1974/75 resource planning.

5. The issue review process is a continuing one and it is particularly important in this first year, following the President's instructions of last November, that we get as much done as is practicable. Results should be helpful in the near term and should pay off in our consideration of the Fiscal Year 1974 budget or in Fiscal Year 1975 planning. I would welcome any comments or suggestions you may have, after you have reviewed the attached.

/s/ Richard Helms

Richard Helms

Attachment (1)

IC/CCG:JMC:hfs(10 May 1972)
Rewritten: [] dm(15 May 1972)
Distribution:

- #1 - Mr. Irwin, State w/atts.
- #2 - Mr. Dan, OMB w/atts.
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